SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

1. Please **amend** the paragraph which begins on page 9, line 6, as follows:

The analyte-specific binding ligand 22, in one embodiment, is covalently labeled with or is in close proximity to an absorbing chromophore capable of absorbing radiation. In one embodiment, radiation absorbing chromophore may be, for example, QSY-21™ which exhibits a broad optical radiation absorption peak extending from 650 nm to 750 nm. Notably, any radiation absorbing chromophore, whether now known or later developed, is intended to be within the scope of the present invention. Indeed, as described in detail below, the radiation absorbing chromophore may be selected in accordance with other aspects of analyte sensing component 12.

2. Please **amend** the paragraph which begins on page 9, line 14, as follows:

The analyte sensing component 12 also includes an analyte-analogue covalently labeled with first radiation converting chromophore 24. In one embodiment, the analyte-analogue, may be, for example, dextran which is a polymeric chain of glucose residues and may also be bound by analyte-specific binding ligand 22, for example, the lectin ligand ConA. The first radiation converting chromophore 24 may be, for example, ~~Alexa~~ALEXA647™, which is capable of converting optical radiation between 630-650 nm into optical radiation between 650-750 nm.

3. Please **amend** the paragraph which begins on page 10, line 1, as follows:

The analyte sensing component 12 may also include second radiation converting chromophore 26. The second radiation converting chromophore 26 may be, for example, LD800™, which is capable of converting optical radiation between 630-650 nm into optical radiation between 700-750 nm. The second radiation converting chromophore 26 may also be a system of chromophores embedded in beads (e.g. TransFluo~~ro~~Spheres(TM)) which is

capable of converting optical radiation between 620-650 nm into optical radiation between 750-760 nm. Indeed, second radiation converting chromophore 26 may be included or incorporated into macroporous matrix layer 20 as beads or particles embedded within macroporous matrix layer 20.

4. Please **amend** the paragraph which begins on page 17, line 7, as follows:

While a technique of compensating for attenuation or loss of transmitted radiation and converted radiation has been described above, in one embodiment, it may be advantageous to employ first radiation converting chromophore 24 and/or second radiation converting chromophore 26 that emit, generate, modify and/or convert the radiation of the transmitted wavelength(s) to a radiation spectrum which is particularly well transmitted by skin, other body tissues and/or fluids. The spectral region composed of very near-infrared optical radiation is one such portion of the radiation spectrum. For example, the first and/or second converting chromophore may be ~~Alexa~~ALEXA647™ (Molecular Probes, Inc.), ~~Alexa~~ALEXA680™ (Molecular Probes, Inc.), ~~Alexa~~ALEXA690™ (Molecular Probes, Inc.), TransFluo~~ro~~Spheres™ (Molecular Probes, Inc.), and/or LD800™ (Exciton, Inc.).

5. Please **amend** the paragraph which begins on page 17, line 18, as follows:

Notably, in selecting or choosing first radiation converting chromophore 24 and/or second radiation converting chromophore 26, a corresponding absorbing chromophore may also be selected which is capable of altering the conversion efficiency of the radiation converting chromophore. For example, converting and absorbing ~~chomophore~~ chromophore pairs in the radiation portion of interest may be: ~~Alexa~~ALEXA633™/QSY21™, ~~Cy~~CY5™/QSY21™, ~~Alexa~~ALEXA647™/QSY21™, ~~Alexa~~ALEXA647™/~~Alexa~~ALEXA680™, ~~Alexa~~ALEXA680™/allophycocyanin (APC), ~~Alexa~~ALEXA700™/APC, and/or

~~Alexa~~ALEXA750™/APC (Molecular Probes, Inc.). It is contemplated, however, that any suitable pair of first and/or second radiation converting chromophore and radiation absorbing chromophore, whether now known or later developed, is within the scope of the present invention.